

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method to distribute policies, comprising:

~~transmitting one of an identification (ID) assigned to a policy template or the policy template associated with each policy to an enforcement point or selected enforcement points for enforcement;~~

determining if a policy template is present at an enforcement point in response to receiving an identification (ID) assigned to the policy template at the enforcement point;

transmitting a query from the enforcement point to a repository, where policy templates are stored, in response to the policy template not being present at the enforcement point, wherein the query includes the ID assigned to the policy template;

receiving the policy template at the enforcement point, wherein the policy template is transmitted by the repository in response to the query; and

~~transmitting one receiving a set of parameters to be used in each the policy template to at the enforcement point or selected enforcement points.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, binding the parameters to each associated the policy template.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising implementing the policy associated with each the policy template.

4. Canceled

5. Canceled

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [§] 1, further comprising applying asynchronous, out-of-band communication to transmit the query and any policy templates.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [§] 1, further comprising compressing ~~each the~~ policy template before transmitting to the enforcement point or any ~~of the~~ selected enforcement points.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising forming ~~each the~~ policy template in a structured document.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising forming ~~each the~~ policy template in a mark-up language.

10. (Currently Amended) A method to distribute policies, comprising:  
defining a policy template associated with each policy;  
assigning a unique identification (ID) to each policy template;  
storing each policy template and assigned ID; and  
transmitting ~~one of only~~ the assigned ID or the policy template to an enforcement point for each policy to be enforced by the enforcement point, ~~wherein only the ID is transmitted to the enforcement point rather than the policy template to substantially minimize use of data processing and communication resources;~~

determining if the policy template corresponding to any transmitted ID is present at the enforcement point;

transmitting a query to a policy template repository in response to the policy template corresponding to any transmitted ID not being present at the enforcement point, wherein the query includes the ID for any policy template not present at the enforcement point; and

transmitting the policy template from the policy template repository to the enforcement point in response to the query including the ID for the policy template.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising identifying at least one set of parameters to be associated with each policy template.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising transmitting the one set of parameters to be used in each associated policy template for enforcement to the enforcement point.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising binding the parameters to each associated template.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising implementing the policy associated with each policy template.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising storing each one of the at least one set of parameters by name and type.

16. Canceled

17. Canceled

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 10, further comprising applying asynchronous, out-of-band communication to query the repository and transmit any templates.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 10, further comprising compressing each template before transmitting to the enforcement point.

20. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising compressing each template before transmitting to the enforcement point.

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21. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising forming each policy template in a structured document.

22. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising forming each policy template in a mark-up language.

23. (Currently Amended) A system to distribute policies, comprising:

a policy administrator to define policy templates and to transmit one of an identification (ID) assigned to a policy template or the policy template associated with each policy to be enforced; and

an enforcement point to receive the ID assigned to the policy template or the policy template for each policy and to enforce each policy; and

a repository to store each policy template and assigned ID, wherein the enforcement point determines if the policy template is present at the enforcement point in response to receiving the ID assigned to the policy template and transmits a query to the repository in response to the policy template not being present at the enforcement point.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein each policy administrator comprises a processor to transmit one of the ID assigned to the policy template or the policy template associated with each policy.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23, wherein each enforcement point comprises:

a processor to receive the IDs assigned to each policy template; and

a data source to store each policy template for enforcement and assigned ID, wherein the processor forms and transmits [a] the query in response to each policy template corresponding to any transmitted IDs not present in the data source.

26. Canceled

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27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~26~~ 23, further comprising a server to interface between each policy administrator, each enforcement point and the repository.

28. (Currently Amended) A system to distribute policies, comprising:  
means for defining a policy template associated with each policy;  
means for assigning a unique identification (ID) to each policy template;  
a repository to store each policy template and assigned ID;  
means for transmitting one of the assigned ID or the policy template for each policy to be enforced; ~~and~~

an enforcement point to receive the assigned ID or the policy template for each policy and to enforce each policy; ~~and~~

means for transmitting a query to a policy template repository in response to each policy template corresponding to any transmitted IDs not being present at the enforcement point, wherein the query includes any transmitted IDs for any policy templates not present at the enforcement point.

29. (Original) The system of claim 28, further comprising means for binding parameters to each associated policy template for enforcement.

30. Canceled

31. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 28, further comprising means for transmitting any policy templates to the enforcement point in response to [a] the query from the enforcement point including any IDs assigned to the policy templates.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31, further comprising means for applying asynchronous, out-of-band communication to transmit the query and any policy templates.

33. (Original) The system of claim 31, further comprising means for compressing each policy template before transmission to the enforcement point.

34. (Original) The system of claim 28, further comprising means for forming each policy template in a structured document.

35. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method, comprising:

defining a policy template associated with each policy;

assigning a unique identification (ID) to each policy template; and

transmitting one of the assigned ID or the policy template to an enforcement point for each policy to be enforced by the enforcement point; and

querying a policy template repository in response to each policy template corresponding to any transmitted IDs not being present at the enforcement point.

36. (Original) The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 35, further comprising:

identifying at least one set of parameters to be associated with each policy template; and

transmitting the one set of parameters to be used in each associated policy template for enforcement to the enforcement point.

37. (Original) The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 36, further comprising binding the parameters to each associated template.

38. (Original) The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 35, further comprising implementing the policy associated with each policy template.

39. Canceled

40. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 35, further comprising transmitting any policy templates to the enforcement point in response to [a] the query from the enforcement point including any IDs assigned to the policy templates.

41. (Original) The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 40, further comprising applying asynchronous, out-of-band communication to query the repository and to transmit any policy templates.

42. (Original) The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 35, further comprising compressing each template before transmitting to the enforcement point.

43. (Original) The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 35, further comprising forming each policy template in a structured document.

44. (Original) The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 35, further comprising forming each policy template in a mark-up language.